

Women, Development, and the Knowledge Society

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Development and Technology

- Progress is closely linked to technology (think of last 2-3 decades);
- Solutions to many problems associated to our planet's sustainability are intertwined with technological advancements;
- Hunger and poverty decreases do also have a very strong technological dimension.

The Knowledge Society

Women and men must have the same opportunity to participate and benefit from:

- information and knowledge generated in the knowledge society;
- Resources and opportunities emerging from the knowledge society;
- Development and applications of technologies, especially ICTs.

Where are we?

- Latin America has not associated development with knowledge generation.
- Sciences, Technology and Innovation have traditionally been thought of as University matters and not as strategies for development.
- World economy has clearly shown the importance of new technologies (ICTs, biotech, robotics, mechatronics, and so on).

In short,

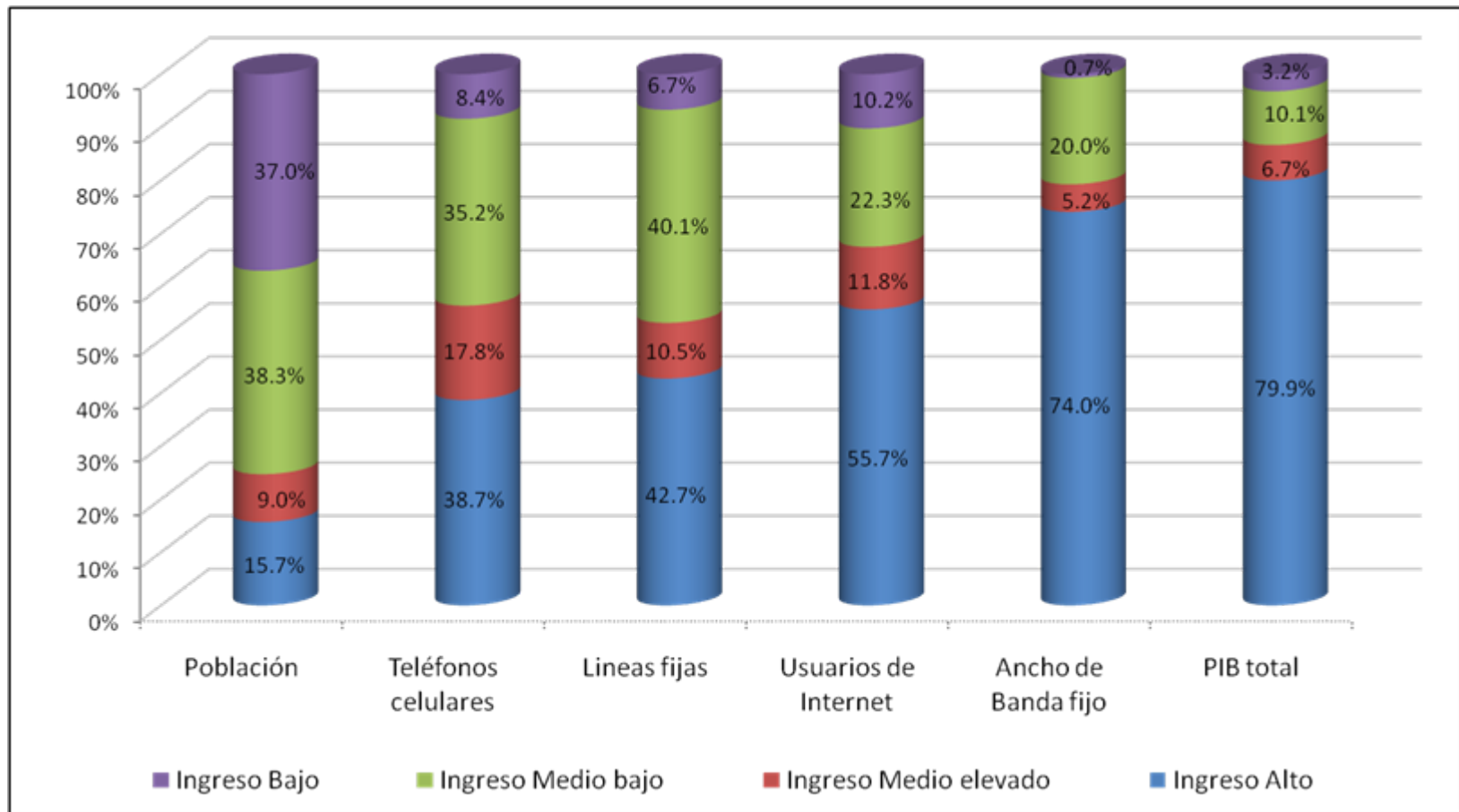
Governments in LDCs have shown lack of interest and lack of commitment towards STI. This has generated:

- a. Gaps among LDCs and developing countries (like those in Latin America) and Developed nations;
- b. Gaps within LDCs and developing countries.

A first technological divide

- Globalization has forced technology use all over the world and the gap has become wider between rich and poor nations.
- LDCs have gradually incorporated technology but little has been done to develop their own technology and to build human capital behind those developments.
- Lack of knowledge, abilities and competences within LDCs' population inhibits greater benefits arising from technology transfer and from knowledge generated in industrialized countries.

ICTs distribution among grouped countries



Fuente: UN, World Information Society 2007 Report:

<http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/publications/worldinformationsociety/2007/WISR07-summary.pdf>.

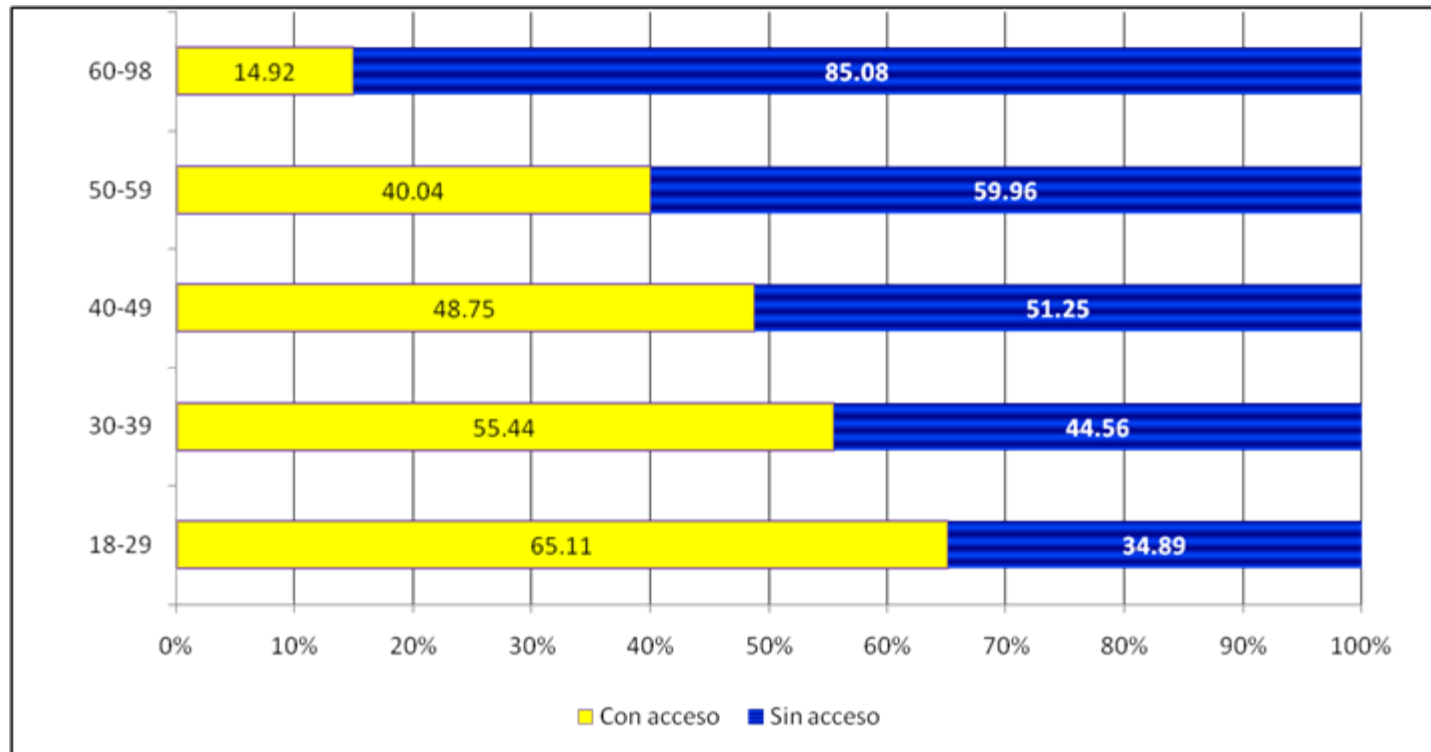
Narrowing the digital divide...

Actions:

- Difuse potential benefits from technologies;
- Improve quality of education, especially primary and secondary, in which ITCs should be incorporated;
- Increase abilities and competences of the general population;
- Guarantee access to technologies and availability of required infrastructure;
- Promote the “electronic culture” electronic in society.

Other technological gaps

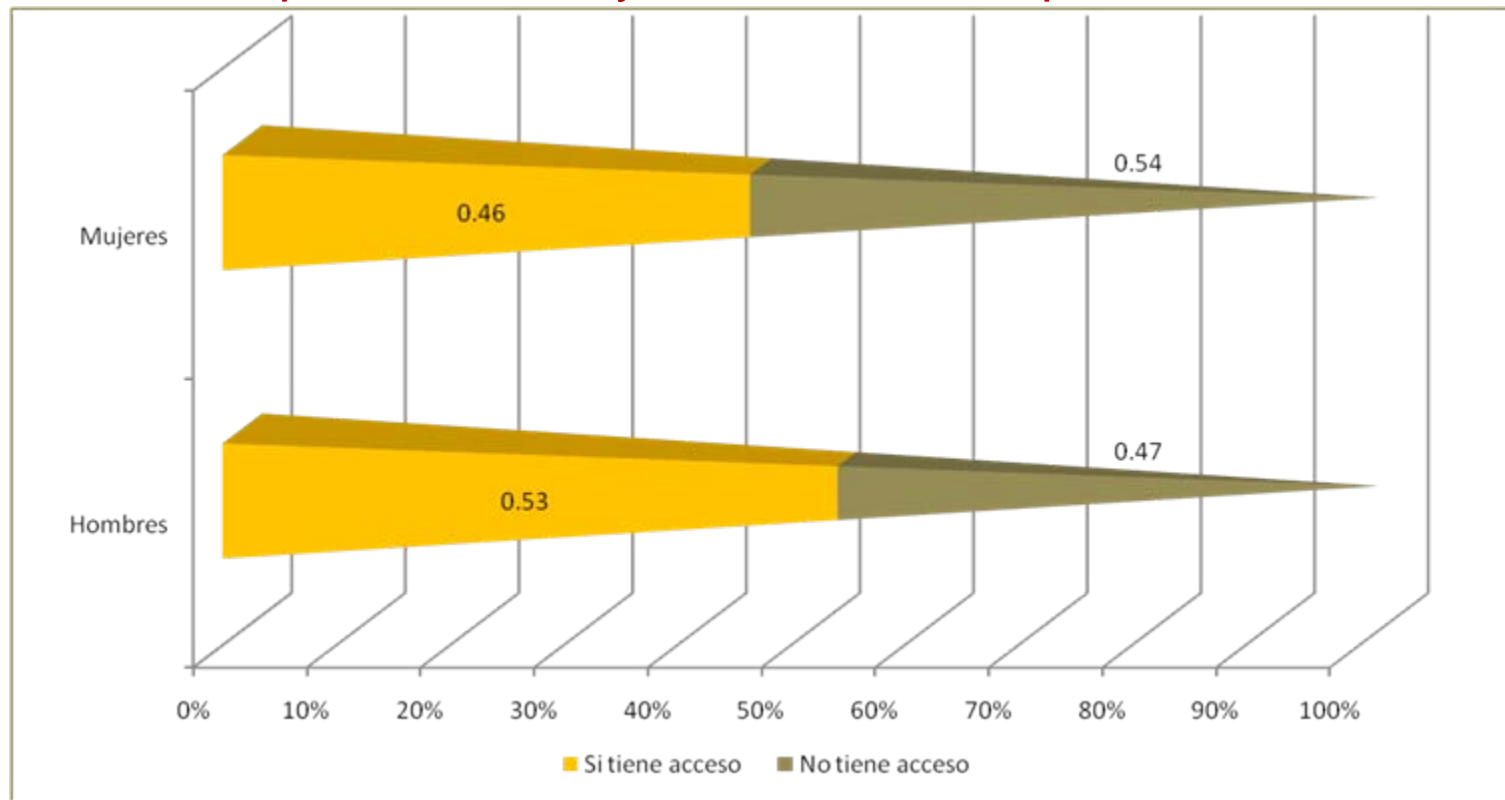
México: Population 18+ by access to a computer



Fuente: INEGI / CONACYT: Encuesta sobre la percepción pública de la Ciencia y la Tecnología en México, 2009

Other technological gaps

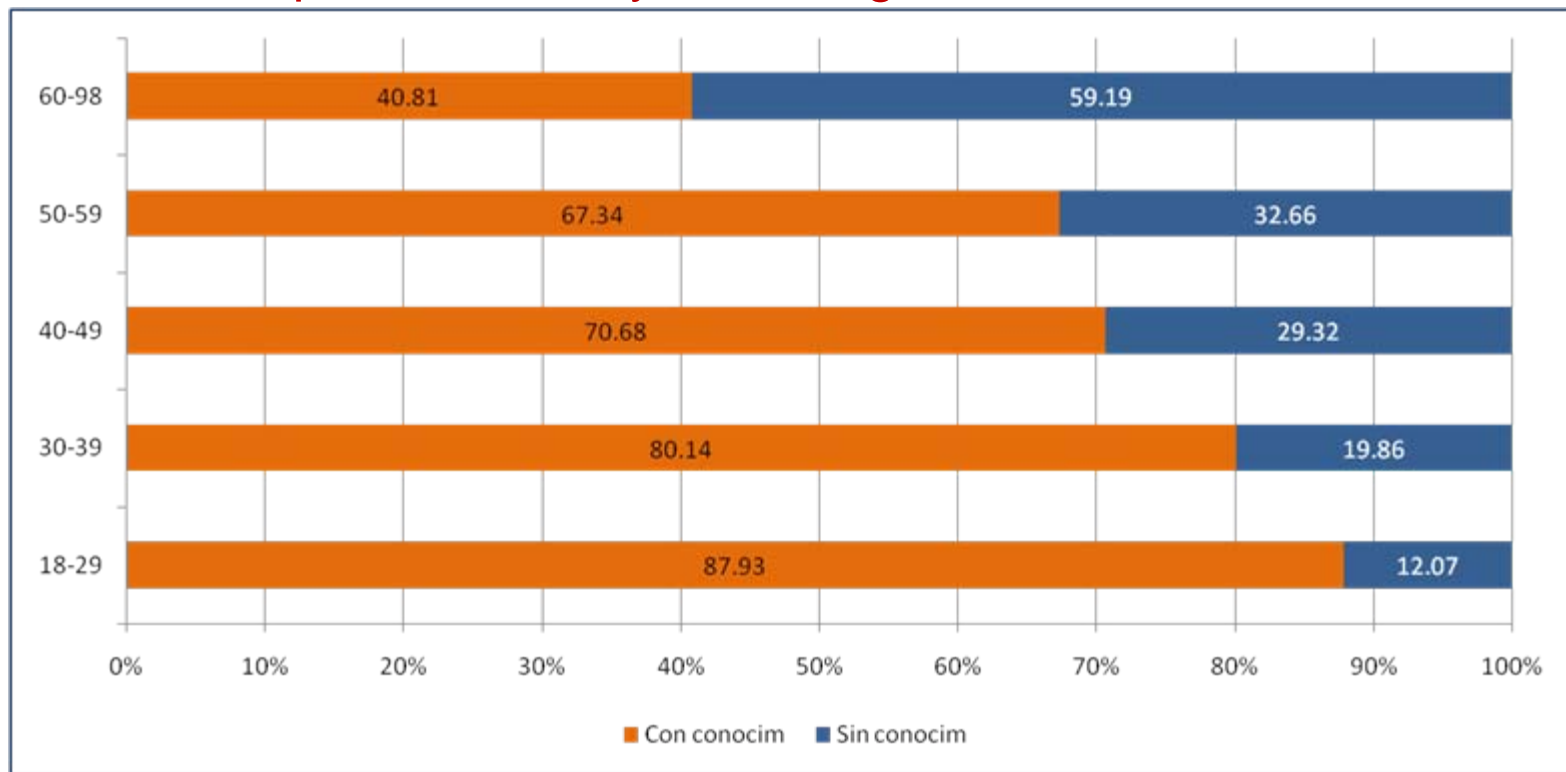
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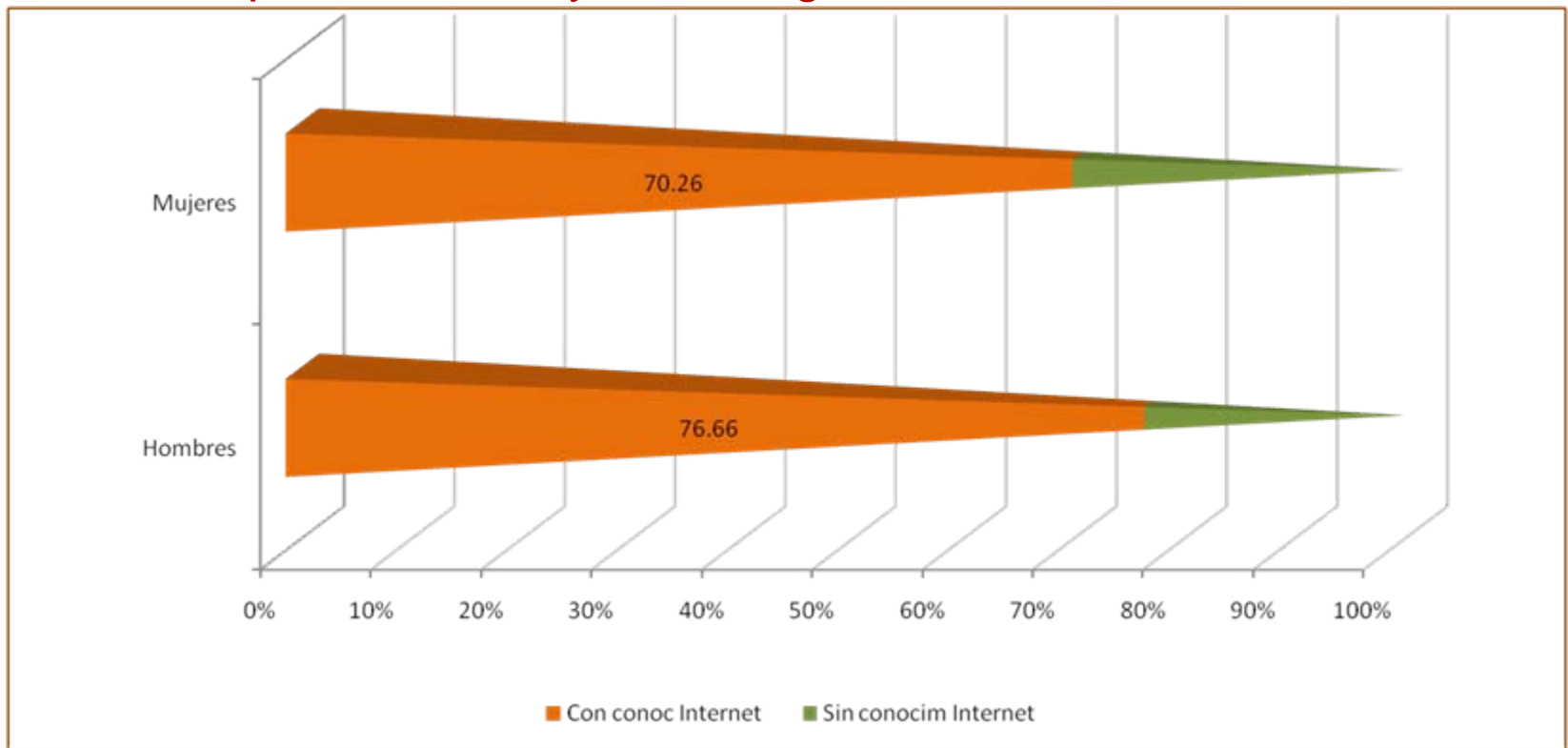
México: Population 18+ by knowledge of Internet



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Knowledge Society

Men and women
with equal access
to ICTs



Gender equality

Issues to consider while advocating education

1. Laws, norms, and regulations. Emphasis on their observance
2. Adequate Education policies
3. Statistics and Indicators. Proper design for collecting and analyzing data
4. Professorship- Gender mainstreaming training, focusing on Student population diversity (social, ethnic, cultural, and sexual); violence prevention (physical and symbolic); and attention to didactic materials.

Thank you!

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